

Appln. No.: 09/935,027
Amendment Dated May 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 29, 2004

MTS-3270US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1, 2, 10, and 20 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Liu (US 5,684,909). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 10, and 20, as amended, are patentable over Liu for the reasons set forth below.

Liu discloses optical waveguide fibers with refractive index profiles that vary in a radial direction, column 3, lines 30-33.

The present invention, as recited in amended claim 1, contains a feature which is neither disclosed, nor suggested by the Liu, namely:

...a substrate having a channel for a planar optical waveguide;...
(Emphasis Added)

Independent claim 20, as amended, includes this same feature. This feature, which is illustrated as element 12 in Figure 1(a), is distinguished from the optical waveguide fiber of Liu. Liu do not disclose or suggest the use of a planar optical waveguide as recited in claims 1 and 20, as amended.

Therefore, for the reasons set forth above, claims 1 and 20, as amended, are not subject to rejection under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Liu. As claims 2 and 10, as amended, are dependent on claim 1, these claims are not subject to this rejection as well.

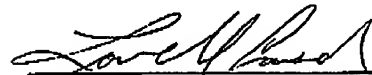
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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 2, 10, and 20, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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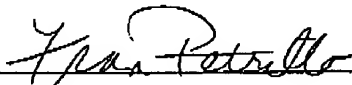
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